

What is claimed is:

1. A method for inferring audience affinity or aptitude with regard to content or properties of portions of a media work which comprises:

presenting the media work to an audience;

obtaining user input regarding presentation rates for the portions of the media work;

correlating content or properties of the portion with the presentation rates;

and;

associating audience affinity or aptitude with the correlated content or properties.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the presentation rates include a rate which causes a portion to be skipped.

3. A method of utilizing audience affinity or aptitude associated with content or properties to present a media work which comprises:

detecting content or properties in a portion of the media work;

associating a presentation rate of the portion with the detected content or properties; and

presenting the portion at the presentation rate.

4. The method of claim 3 wherein associating includes accepting user input to determine the presentation rate.

5. A method of utilizing audience affinity or aptitude associated with content or properties to present a media work which comprises:

detecting content or properties in portions of the media work;

associating a presentation order with the detected content or properties; and

presenting the media work in accordance with the presentation order.

6. The method of claim 5 wherein associating further comprises associating a presentation rate of the portion with the detected content or properties.

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7. A method of testing aptitude of a audience for content or properties of portions of a media work which comprises:
presenting the media to the audience;
obtaining user input regarding presentation rates for portions of the media work; and
correlating the presentation rates with the aptitude for the content or properties of the portions.

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8. A method of presenting media works which comprises:
accessing information identifying a media work and a time to retrieve the media work;
retrieving the identified media work at the time;
accessing presentation rate information for use in altering the presentation rate of the media work; and
altering the presentation rate of the media work.

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9. The method of claim 8 which further comprises:
concatenating several altered media works to form a concatenated media work; and
presenting the concatenated media work.

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10. A method of presenting a media work which comprises:
detecting properties in a portion of the media work;
associating a presentation rate of the portion with the detected properties;
and
presenting the portion at the presentation rate;
wherein the presentation rates provide a substantially uniform rate of content presentation.

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11. A method of presenting a media work which comprises:
detecting properties in a portion of the media work;
associating a presentation rate of the portion with the detected properties;

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presenting the portion at the presentation rate; and
wherein the properties comprise indicia of actions of objects.

12. A method of determining the duration of an altered media work
having a presentation rate of one or more of its segments that differs from that of a media
5 work used to create the altered media work, which method comprises:

segmenting the media work into segments having a single presentation rate;
determining the length of the segments of the media work;
computing the duration of the segments of the media work after application
of the presentation rate; and

10 summing the durations to determine the duration of the altered media work.

13. The method of claim 12 which further comprises:

excising segments from the media work having a presentation rate that
exceeds a predetermined threshold.

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